

## Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 PRS-01 SP-02 SAM-01 EB-03

RSC-01 /034 W

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P 231048Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN  
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY 1588  
USIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAMA 0862

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS : OVIP (KEOGH, JAMES), BA

SUBJECT : USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH'S VISIT TO BAHRAIN

REFS : MANAMA 819, MANAMA 832

1. USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH'S OCTOBER 21-23 VISIT TO BAHRAIN  
EXCEPTIONALLY HELPFUL AND WELL RECEIVED BY GOB. IN  
ADDITION TO VISITS AND SOCIAL EVENTS FOCUSED ON MEDIA  
AND USIA ACTIVITIES, VISIT WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY 30 MINUTE  
CALL ON AMIR AND ONE HOUR MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER,  
WITH BOTH EMPHASIZING IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACHED TO KEOGH  
VISIT AS MANIFESTATION HIGH-LEVEL USG INTEREST IN AND  
SUPPORT FOR BAHRAIN.

2. IN MEETING WITH AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER MR. KEOGH  
MADE EFFECTIVE PRESENTATIONS ALONG LINES PARA. 4B,  
MANAMA 819. HIS COMMENTS ON BASIC HEALTH U.S. SOCIETY,  
DETERMINATION USG UNDER PRESIDENT FORD TO CONTINUE SEARCH  
FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE AND SERIOUSNESS OF USG IN DEALING  
WITH ENERGY AND INFLATION PROBLEMS WERE PARTICULARLY  
PERSUASIVE AND WELL RECEIVED.

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3. BOTH AMIRLAND PRIME MINISTER STRESSED REPEATEDLY BAHRAIN'S FRIENDSHIP FOR U.S. AND IMPORTANCE GOB ATTACHES TO EXPANDING BOTH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE RELATIONS WITH U. U. BOTH GOT IN PLUGS FOR MUTUAL HELP AND COOPERATION WITH PRIME MINISTER BEARING DOWN HARD ON THIS POINT IN POINTED REFERENCE TO GOB DESIRE FOR U.S. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PRESENCE HERE.

4. AMIR COMMENTED ON IMPORTANCE COMING ARAB SUMMIT AND PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN ROLE IN MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT (SEPTELS). BOTH HE AND PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN ABOUT ABILITY OF SYRIANS TO STAY ON STRAIGHT AND NARROW IN LINE WITH EGYPT AND ARAB MONARCHS IN CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS TOWARD SOLVING THE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEM.

5. PRIME MINISTER REPEATEDLY STRESSED IMPORTANCE GOB ATTACHES TO STRONGEST POSSIBLE U.S.-SAUDI RELATIONSHIP, NOTING SAUDI ARABIA BACKBONE OF SECURITY AND STABILITY ON ARAB SIDE OF GULF, AND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT TENDENCY TOWARD CONFRONTATION RATHER THAN CONSTRUCTIVE DIALOGUE BETWEEN OIL PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS. HE ALSO POINTED OUT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT IN DEVELOPING NEW FRIENDSHIPS IN ARAB WORLD USG SHOULD NOT SLIGHT ITS OLD FRIENDS, I.E., SAUDI ARABIA AND BAHRAIN. ALTHOUGH MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER ZHOBOHYLY CORDIAL, HE DID MANAGE TO GET IN A HARD LICK ABOUT OCTOBER 7 EDITION INTERNATIONAL NEWSWEEK (MANAMA 832).

6. COMMENT: FRIENDLINESS AND FRANKNESS OF DIALOGUE WITH AMIR AND PRIME MINISTER, COURTESIES EXTENDED THROUGHOUT VISIT BY GOB, AND INTENSE LOCAL PUBLICITY GIVEN VISIT ALL POINT OUT EXTREME IMPORTANCE BAHRAINI LEADERS ATTACH TO DIRECTOR KEOGH'S VISIT. ON EVE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OPENING AND WITH MIDDLE EAST FORCE QUESTION STILL ON FRONT BURNER, VISIT WAS PARTICULARLY TIMELY AND HELPFUL INDICATION THAT USG PERCEIVES ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH BAHRAIN AS INTENSIFYING IN A BROAD CONTEXT EMPHASIZING CIVILIAN RATHER THAN MILITARY ASPECTS. DIRECTOR KEOGH'S VISIT MEANT A LOT TO GOB LEADERS AND TO U.S. INTERESTS IN BAHRAIN AND GULF.

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**TAGS:** OVIP, BA, (KEOGH, JAMES)  
**To:** STATE USIA  
**Type:** TE  
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